

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 46 and 50 to correct certain informalities. The amendment is editorial in nature. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS:

Claims 46 and 51 have been objected as containing certain informalities.

It is respectfully submitted that the informalities indicated by the Examiner have been corrected. More specifically, the terms “control member” in Claims 46 and 50 have been corrected to “control platform”. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 51 does not contain the informality indicated by the Examiner.

Therefore, the objection to the claims has been overcome and withdrawal of objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 21 – 29, 35 – 45, 46 – 47 and 49 – 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Derocher et al. (US 5,914,702), hereinafter Derocher.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. Derocher discloses merely the application and detection of **z-direction (downward) forces** which tilt the plate or control platform 72 (See column 2 lines 33 and 34 and column 6 lines 27 to 36). It is

respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Derocher to apply or detect x and y forces and thus no disclosure of feature b) of claim 21 (“transducer means for generating a vector output signal in response to **x and y components of force transmitted thereto**”) or the corresponding feature of the other independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the passage cited by the Examiner at column 6 lines 42 to 44 of Derocher allegedly disclosing "a sensor responsive to directional force" is either non-enabling (no suitable sensors are disclosed) or, in the alternative, refers to a sensor responsive to tilting of the post 74 as a result of **downward pressure** applied to the plate 72 as indicated in the above passages.

Notably, lines 36 to 39 of column 6 of Derocher refer to leverage (caused by the action of the relatively large plate 72 on the relatively short post 74 - see Fig 4) and it is respectfully submitted that this effect will make the Derocher arrangement selectively responsive to **z forces**. Indeed, there is no indication that the sensor would be sufficiently sensitive to respond to **x and y forces parallel to the plate** which are not amplified by leverage. Therefore, it is clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the transducer means in responsive to the application of such x and y forces is not taught in Derocher.

In summary, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Derocher and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 30 – 34, 45 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Derocher.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over Derocher. As stated above, Derocher fails to disclose the feature of “transducer means for generating a vector output signal in response to x and y components of force transmitted thereto” as recited in the pending

claims. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that "[T]he mere fact that references **can** be combined or **modified does not render** the resultant combination **obvious** unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990)" (emphasis added, see MPEP 2143.01).

In summary, there is no motivation to modify Derocher. Even if it is modified, it will not render the present claimed invention obvious. One of ordinary skill in the art would not discern the present invention as claimed at the time of its invention.

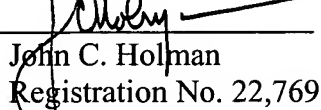
Therefore, the newly presented claims are not obvious over Derocher and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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